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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

46850 7590 08/18/2009

MENDELSON, DRUCKER, & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
1500 JOHN F. KENNEDY BLVD., SUITE 405
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102

EXAMINER

MERED, HABTE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2416

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2009

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/815,123 | 03/31/2004 | Gary W. Atkinson | ATKINSON 3-1-28 | 9196 |

TITLE OF INVENTION: RESTORATION TIME IN MESH NETWORKS

| APPLN. TYPE | SMALL ENTITY | ISSUE FEE DUE | PUBLICATION FEE DUE | PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE | TOTAL FEE(S) DUE | DATE DUE |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------|
| nonprovisional | NO | \$1510 | \$300 | \$0 | \$1810 | 11/18/2009 |

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

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46850 7590 08/18/2009

MENDELSON, DRUCKER, & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
1500 JOHN F. KENNEDY BLVD., SUITE 405
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

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|----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------|
| nonprovisional | NO | \$1510 | \$300 | \$0 | \$1810 | 11/18/2009 |
| EXAMINER | ART UNIT | CLASS-SUBCLASS | | | | |
| MERED, HABTE | | 2416 | 370-217000 | | | |

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
 "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): Individual Corporation or other private group entity Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

Issue Fee
 Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
 Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

A check is enclosed.
 Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
 The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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| 46850 | 7590 | 08/18/2009 | EXAMINER | |
| MENDELSON, DRUCKER, & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 1500 JOHN F. KENNEDY BLVD., SUITE 405 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102 | | MERED, HABTE | | |
| | | ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | 2416 | | |
| DATE MAILED: 08/18/2009 | | | | |

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 551 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 551 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/815,123 | ATKINSON ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | HABTE MERED | 2416 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to communication filed on 6/01/09.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4, 6-10, 13, 15-26 (renumbered 1-20).
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

/Aung S. Moe/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2416

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on 6/01/09 has been entered and fully considered.
2. The IDS filed on 7/22/09 is acknowledged.
3. Initialed Forms 1449 are attached to the instant Office Action in response to Applicant's request to initial the IDS filed on 7/29/08, 2/27/09, and 7/22/09.
4. Applicant's amendments to independent claims 1 and 21 overcome the rejection under 35 USC 101. The original disclosure as noted by Applicant clearly indicates a Path Manager having computing elements (i.e. original claims 10 and 24) and such a manager or a network planner is an independent entity as stated in paragraph 42 requiring its own hardware and software arrangement to predict cost effective path between network nodes.
5. Claims 1, 4, 6-10, 13, 15-26 are allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 and all of its dependent claims (i.e. 4, 6-9, and 20) are allowable over the prior art of record since the cited references taken individually or in combination fail to particularly teach or suggest A path-manager-implemented method, comprising: the path manager receiving one or more demands for service in a mesh network, which

network comprises a plurality of nodes interconnected by a plurality of links; and the path manager mapping each of the one or more demands onto a primary path and a restoration path in the network to generate at least one path plan for the one or more demands in the network, wherein the at least one path plan is generated as a function of (i) one or more cost criteria associated with the at least one path plan and (ii) a failure-related cross-connection criterion associated with the path plan by:

(a) calculating a set of node-disjoint path pairs for the one or more demands based on the

failure-related cross-connection criterion, wherein a node-disjoint path pair is calculated for each demand;

(b) identifying primary and restoration paths for each node-disjoint path pair in the set to generate a path plan for the one or more demands;

(c) determining whether the path plan satisfies the failure-related cross-connection criterion;

(d) saving, when the path plan satisfies the failure-related cross-connection criterion, the path plan;

(e) repeating steps (a)-(d) to generate two or more path plans that satisfy the failure-related cross-connection criterion; and

(f) selecting one of the path plans based on the one or more cost criteria.

It is noted that the closest prior art, Miyao, discloses minimizing transmission cost on each span and number of cross connects at each node for a single set of path calculation.

Claim 10 and all of its dependent claims (i.e. 13 and 15-19) are allowable over the prior art of record since the cited references taken individually or in combination fail to particularly teach or suggest a path manager for a mesh communications network, the manager comprising one or more computing elements, wherein the manager is adapted to:

receive one or more demands for service in the mesh network, which network comprises a plurality of nodes interconnected by a plurality of links; and map each of the one or more demands onto a primary path and a restoration path in the network to generate at least one path plan for the one or more demands in the network, wherein the at least one path plan is generated as a function of (i) one or more cost criteria associated with the at least one path plan and (ii) a failure-related cross-connection criterion associated with the path by:

- (a) calculating a set of node-disjoint path pairs for the one or more demands based on the failure-related cross-connection criterion, wherein a node-disjoint path pair is calculated for each demand;
- (b) identifying primary and restoration paths for each node-disjoint path pair in the set to generate a path plan for the one or more demands;

- (c) determining whether the path plan satisfies the failure-related cross-connection criterion;
- (d) saving, when the path plan satisfies the failure-related cross-connection criterion, the path plan;
- (e) repeating steps (a)-(d) to generate two or more path plans that satisfy the failure-related cross-connection criterion; and
- (f) selecting one of the path plans based on the one or more cost criteria.

It is noted that the closest prior art, Miyao, discloses minimizing transmission cost on each span and number of cross connects at each node for a single set of path calculation.

Claim 21 and all of its dependent claims (i.e. 22-23) are allowable over the prior art of record since the cited references taken individually or in combination fail to particularly teach or suggest

A path-manager-implemented method, comprising:

the path manager receiving one or more demands for service in a mesh network, which network comprises a plurality of nodes interconnected by a plurality of links; and

the path manager mapping each of the one or more demands onto a primary path and a restoration path in the network to generate at least one path plan for the one or more demands in the network, wherein the at least one path plan is generated as a function of (a) one or more cost criteria associated with the at

least one path plan and (b) a failure-related cross-connection criterion associated with the path plan by:

calculating a first set of one or more path plans that satisfy the one or more cost criteria;

calculating a second set of one or more path plans that satisfy the failure-related cross-connection criterion;

determining whether the first and second sets have any path plans in common;

and

if not, then, until the first and second sets have at least one path plan in common,

relaxing the one or more cost criteria and recalculating the first set.

It is noted that the closest prior art, Miyao, discloses minimizing transmission cost on each span and number of cross connects at each node for a single set of path calculation.

Claim 24 and all of its dependent claims (i.e. 25-26) are allowable over the prior art of record since the cited references taken individually or in combination fail to particularly teach or suggest a path manager for a mesh communications network, the manager comprising one or more computing elements, wherein the manager is adapted to:

receive one or more demands for service in the mesh network, which network comprises a plurality of nodes interconnected by a plurality of links; and

map each of the one or more demands onto a primary path and a restoration path in the network to generate at least one path plan for the one or more demands in the network, wherein the at least one path plan is generated as a function of (a) one or more cost criteria associated with the at least one path plan and (b) a failure-related cross-connection criterion associated with the path plan by:

calculating a first set of one or more path plans that satisfy the one or more cost criteria;

calculating a second set of one or more path plans that satisfy the failure-related cross-connection criterion;

determining whether the first and second sets have any path plans in common;
and

if not, then, until the first and second sets have at least one path plan in common,
relaxing the one or more cost criteria and recalculating the first set.

It is noted that the closest prior art, Miyao, discloses minimizing transmission cost on each span and number of cross connects at each node for a single set of path calculation.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HABTE MERED whose telephone number is (571)272-6046. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 10:30AM to 7:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung S. Moe can be reached on 571 272 7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Aung S. Moe/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2416

/Habte Mered/
Examiner, Art Unit 2416
8-14-09